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CONTENTS OF VOLUME 4

Number 1, March

Introduction and Summary of Conclusions and Recommendations . . . 4
Chapter 1. Medical Implications of Ingestion of Mercury 9
Chapter 2. Microbial Transformation of Mercury 23
Chapter 3. Sources, Distribution, and Control 26
Chapter 4. Ecologic Effects of Methylmercury Contamination 31
Chapter 5. Farming-Food-Forestry 41
Chapter 6. Airborne Mercury 50
Chapter 7. Analytical Methods 53
Appendix A (List of Persons Consulted) 60
Appendix B (Tabular Data on Production and Use of Mercury) . . . 62
Appendix C (Units for Expressing Concentration of Mercury) 63
Appendix D (FAO Estimates of Fish Consumption) 63
References 64

Number 2, April

Editorials i
D. F. Flick, H. F. Kraybill, and J. M. Dimitroff. Toxic Effects of Cadmium: A Review 71
A. C. Turnock, S. Bryks, and F. D. Bertalanffy. The Synthesis of Tritium-Labeled Asbestos for Use in Biological Research 86
J. S. Harrington, Klara Miller, and Gwen Macnab. Hemolysis by Asbestos 95
J. S. Harrington and Klara Miller. Effect of Poly-2-vinylpyridine-1-oxide on Hemolysis by Water 118
D. J. Evans and E. Posner. Pneumoconiosis in Laundry Workers . . . 121
M. E. Perlman, J. F. Finklea, C. M. Shy, J. Van Bruggen, and V. A. Newill. Chronic Oxidant Exposure and Epidemic Influenza . . . 129
M. I. Skikne, J. H. Talbot, and R. E. G. Rendall. Electron Diffraction Patterns of U.I.C.C. Asbestos Samples 141
James H. Stebbings, Jr. Chronic Respiratory Disease Among Nonsmokers in Hagerstown, Maryland. I. Design of the Study and Prevalence of Symptoms 146
James H. Stebbings, Jr. Chronic Respiratory Disease among Nonsmokers in Hagerstown, Maryland. II. Problems in the Estimation of Pulmonary Function Values in Epidemiological Surveys 163

Number 3, August

Clifton Blincoe and V. R. Bohman. Cesium-137 from Environmental Sources in Desert Range Cattle from 1962 Through 1968 193

L. Ivanova-Chemishanska, D. V. Markov, and G. Dashev. Light and Electron Microscopic Observations on Rat Thyroid After Administration of Some Dithiocarbamates 201

James H. Stebbings, Jr. Chronic Respiratory Disease Among Nonsmokers in Hagerstown, Maryland. III. Social Class and Chronic Respiratory Disease 213

Dennis M. Driscoll. Base Lines for Measuring Adverse Effects of Air Pollution: Some Evidence for Weather Effects on Mortality 233

S. H. Zaidi, Ravi Shanker, and R. K. S. Dogra. Experimental Studies on Early Stages of the Development of Pulmonary Silicosis in Pups . . 243

K. E. Hicks. Computer Calculation and Analysis of the P4SR Heat-Stress Index 253

R. E. Zelac, H. L. Cromroy, W. E. Bolch, Jr., B. G. Dunavant, and H. A. Bevis. Inhaled Ozone as a Mutagen. I. Chromosome Aberrations Induced in Chinese Hamster Lymphocytes 262

Number 4, October

James H. Stebbings, Jr. Chronic Respiratory Disease Among Nonsmokers in Hagerstown, Maryland. IV. Effects of Urban Residence on Pulmonary Function Values 283

L. M. Shabad. Dose-Response Studies in Experimentally Induced Lung Tumours 305

J. Q. Lynd and F. T. Lynd. *Mucor* Divergence in Aflatoxin Effects with Duckling Bile and Plasma 316

R. E. Zelac, H. L. Cromroy, W. E. Bolch, Jr., B. G. Dunavant, and H. A. Bevis. Inhaled Ozone As a Mutagen. II. Effect on the Frequency of Chromosome Aberrations Observed in Irradiated Chinese Hamsters 325

R. Frank, J. P. Flesch, and J. D. Brain. Effect of Ozone on Elastic Behavior of Excised Lungs of Dogs 343

J. E. Kihlström, C. Lundberg, and L. Hulth. Number of Eggs and Young Produced by Zebrafishes (*Brachydanio rerio*, Ham.–Buch.) Spawning in Water Containing Small Amounts of Phenylmercuric Acetate 355

K. Kostial, I. Šimonović, and M. Pišonić. Reduction of Lead Absorption from the Intestine in Newborn Rats 360

Number 5, November

Editorial i

Kornel Gibinski. Some Controversial Problems in Sweat Gland Function 365

Herbert Seidman. Cancer Mortality in New York City for Country-of-Birth, Religious, and Socioeconomic Groups 390

A. Solomon, B. Goldstein, I. Webster, and G. K. Sluis-Cremer. Massive Fibrosis in Asbestosis 430

Kingsley Kay. Agricultural Health and Hygiene–with Special Reference to the Canadian Position 440

Book Review 469

Announcement 470

Number 6, December

Akira Okada, Takamasa Yamashita, and Katsuhiro Fukuda. City Vibration and Its Threshold Limits 471

D. K. Kalani. Potentiometric Estimations of Mn in Biological Tissues . 478

August Curley, Virlyn W. Burse, Mary E. Grim, Ralph W. Jennings, and Ralph E. Linder. Polychlorinated Biphenyls: Distribution and Storage in Body Fluids and Tissues of Sherman Rats 481

Andrew L. Reeves, Henry E. Puro, Ralph G. Smith, and Arthur J. Vorwald. Experimental Asbestos Carcinogenesis 496

Neil S. Shore, Reginald Greene, and Homayoun Kazemi. Lung Dysfunction in Workers Exposed to *Bacillus subtilis* Enzyme 512

A. W. Voors, R. L. Reddick, and G. G. Koch. Trace Metals May Decrease Hypercholesterolemia in Crowded Cholesterol-Fed Roosters . . . 520

R. J. Szot and S. D. Murphy. Relationships Between Cyclic Variations in Adrenocortical Secretory Activity in Rats and the Adrenocortical Response to Toxic Chemical Stress 530

Walter Landauer, Naseem Salam, and Dinah Sopher. The Herbicide 3-Amino-1,2,4-Triazole (Amitrole) as Teratogen 539

Brian Morton and P. R. Twentyman. The Occurrence and Toxicity of a Red Tide Caused by *Noctiluca scintillans* (Macartney) Ehrenb., in the Coastal Waters of Hong Kong 544

A. Morgan, A. Holmes, and C. Gold. Studies of the Solubility of Constituents of Chrysotile Asbestos *in Vivo* Using Radioactive Tracer Techniques 558

Announcement 571

Author Index 572

Subject Index 574

The Chemical Technology of Wood

By HERMANN F. J. WENZL
Technical and Scientific Consultant
Lucerne, Switzerland
Translated from German into English by
FRIEDRICH E. BRAUNS and DOROTHY A. BRAUNS.

This comprehensive survey of the methods of chemical technology of wood is especially timely because it discusses some ecological problems generated by these methods.

Beginning with a discussion of the anatomy and physical properties of wood, the book goes on to deal with the chemistry of wood and its main elements: cellulose, hemicelluloses, and lignin. Emphasis is placed on the reactions which play a decisive role in the chemistry and chemical technology of wood. A thorough discussion of the technological methods follows which includes chemical wood utilization, with the special emphasis on pyrolytic and extraction processes, the hydrolysis and the oxidation in the presence of alkali and the hydrogenolysis of wood and lignin. It details all of the current techniques, the various chemical reactions and interactions, and the ecological significance of these methods providing alternative solutions to some of the problems arising from the various methods. The book also discusses utilization of the by-products.

The book will be of great interest and use to all chemists and technicians who work with wood, and also to foresters and forest managers.

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